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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/985,686	11/05/2001	Ertugrul Baydar	42195	4027
7590 05/17/2005				
Stacey J. Longanecker Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P. Suite 600 1300 19th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20036		EXAMINER PHAM, BRENDA H		
		ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER		
		2664		

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/985,686

Applicant(s)

BAYDAR ET AL.

Examiner

Brenda Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/05/2001</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-6 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida (US 5,682,257).

Claim 1, Uchida discloses an apparatus for handling communication signals comprising the combination of (referring to figure 6 and 7): optical interface means (element 41 of figure 6, for E/O CONV) for receiving optical signals, converting said optical signals into electrical signals and (element 42, 43) demultiplexing said electrical signals from an optical channel format to a synchronous transport signal, STS, format; STS Multiplexing means for receiving the demultiplexed STS signals and generating an output of parallel STS signals arranged in at least one virtual tributary group, (VTG, see figure 7); VTG circuit means for mapping and demapping a virtual tributary group; and channel unit means for receiving and processing said virtual tributary group and for delivering said virtual tributary group to predetermined customer instruments (see figure 7 DS1 signal to subscriber).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida (US 5,682,257) in view of Biegel et al (US 5,608,720).

Claims 2 and 4, as explained in the rejection statement of claim 1 (parent claim), Uchida discloses all the claim limitation of parent claim. Uchida does not teach wherein said STS multiplexing means comprises means for sending loop-back signals for diagnosing faults in said optical interface means and said VTG circuit means.

Biegel et al, in the same field of endeavor, teach this limitation.

Biegel et al teach that the STSM circuit packs provide a parallel 3xSTS-1 data interface on Bus 2 to the VTG/Quad DS1 (VTG) circuit packs indicated generally at 53. The STSM circuit packs also perform diagnostic loopbacks to diagnose and isolate faults on both the OC-2 optical interface circuit pack side and the VTG circuit pack side of the STSM circuit packs 51.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 5, 6 allowed.

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7. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art made of record fails to teach or fairly suggest in combination wherein said VTG circuit means comprise: line interface circuit means comprising an input and an output for receiving and transmitting DS1 data streams, respectively, said line interface circuit means being operable to perform line decoding and clock recovery on received DS1 data streams; and VT mapper means coupled to said line interface circuit means for mapping data from the received DS1 data streams to a virtual tributary in one direction of signal flow, and for demapping asynchronous or byte-synchronous virtual tributaries to DS1 data streams for transmission by said line interface circuit means in the opposite direction of signal flow.

The prior art made of record does not teach a method of handling communication channels for load equalization in a system having multiple connections to channels in an actual remote digital terminal comprising the steps of: defining a number of virtual remote digital terminals by selecting a plurality of groups of said channels to represent respective said virtual remote digital terminals, wherein said plurality of groups of channels need not be characterized by the same number of said channels; administering each group in said plurality of groups of channels as though the channels of said group constituted a single actual remote digital terminal; and determining a concentration ratio for each group in said plurality of groups of channels independently

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of each other group using software without changing any hardware configurations of said actual remote digital terminal.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-3135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin, can be reached at (571) 272-3134.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Brenda Pham
May 10, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda A. Pham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "B".